

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A preform ~~having at least a layer of an ethylene terephthalate unit containing polyester resin including body and bottom portions having a continuous multi-layer structure~~ formed by compression-forming a molten resin mass and continuously forming a multi-layer structure in the body portion and in the body portion thereof, the multi-layer structure having layers of an ethylene terephthalate unit-containing polyester resin as inner and outer layers and at least one layer of a gas-barrier resin or a recycled polyester resin as an intermediate layer, wherein the time is not shorter than 300 seconds before a calorific value of isothermal crystallization of said layer of the ethylene terephthalate unit-containing polyester resin at 210°C reaches a maximum value, ~~and wherein said preform is formed by compression-forming a molten resin mass.~~

2. (previously presented): A preform according to claim 1, wherein said polyester resin contains ethylene terephthalate units at a ratio of not smaller than 95 mol%.

3. (original): A preform according to claim 1, wherein said polyester resin contains recycled polyester resins.

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled).

6. (withdrawn-currently amended): A method of producing a preform ~~having at least a layer of an ethylene terephthalate unit containing polyester resin including body and bottom portions having a continuous multi-layer structure~~ formed by compression-forming a molten resin mass and continuously forming a multi-layer structure in the body portion and in the body portion thereof, the multi-layer structure having layers of an ethylene terephthalate unit-containing polyester resin as inner and outer layers and at least one layer of a gas-barrier resin or a recycled polyester resin as an intermediate layer, wherein the time is not shorter than 300 seconds before a calorific value of isothermal crystallization of said layer of the ethylene terephthalate unit-containing polyester resin at 210°C reaches a maximum value, ~~and wherein said preform is formed by compression-forming a molten resin mass~~, which method comprises feeding a molten polyester resin having an inherent viscosity at the time of melt-extrusion of not smaller than 0.72 dL/g to a compression-forming machine and compression-forming.

7. (withdrawn): A method of producing a preform according to claim 6, wherein the temperature of melt-extruding the molten polyester resin is in a range of $T_m + 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $T_m + 40^{\circ}\text{C}$ with the melting point (T_m) of the polyester resin as a reference.

8. (withdrawn): A method of producing a preform according to claim 6, wherein a drop of the inherent viscosity at the time of melt-extrusion from the inherent viscosity of when the polyester resin to be used is thrown into the extruder is not larger than 10%.

9. (canceled).